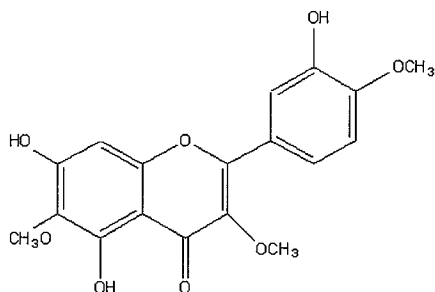


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

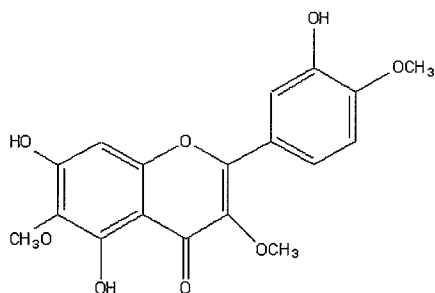
1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) A method for whitening skin comprising:
a step of applying Centaureidin represented by the following formula and/or a salt thereof to the skin of an individual in need of skin whitening, whereby elongation of melanocytic dendrites is inhibited:



8-11. (Cancelled)

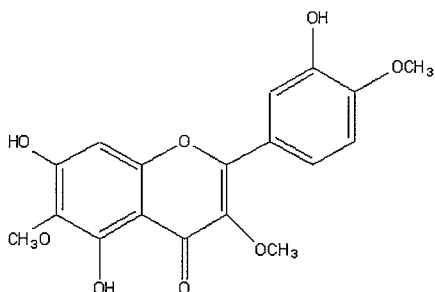
12. (Previously presented) A method for whitening skin comprising applying a skin preparation for external use comprising 0.005 to 5% by weight of Centaureidin represented by the following formula and/or a salt thereof to an individual in need of skin whitening, whereby elongation of melanocytic dendrites is inhibited:



13. (Previously presented) The method for whitening skin according to claim 12, wherein the skin preparation for external use is a cosmetic.

14. (Previously presented) A method for treating dyschromatosis comprising:

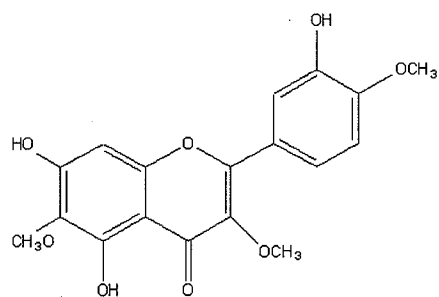
a step of applying Centaureidin represented by the following formula and/or a salt thereof to the skin of an individual in need of a treatment for dyschromatosis, whereby elongation of melanocytic dendrites is inhibited:



15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) A method for treating dyschromatosis comprising applying a skin preparation for external use comprising 0.005 to 5% by weight of Centaureidin represented by the following formula and/or a salt thereof to an individual in need of a treatment for dyschromatosis, whereby elongation of melanocytic dendrites is inhibited:

Application No.: 10/537,320
Filing Date: June 2, 2005



17. (Previously presented) The method for treating dyschromatosis according to claim 16, wherein the skin preparation for external use is a cosmetic.